THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) At present there is no proposal to construct inter-city expressways in the country.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Development and Maintenance of Delhi-Mawana-Mirapur-Bijnor-Najibabad-Kotdwara Highway

2747. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that people of the hill region of Uttaranchal are very much agitated due to non development and maintenance of Delhi-Mawana-Mirapur-Bijnor-Najibabad-Kotdwara highway;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in repair and development of the Highway;

(c) whether Government have conducted any survey to identify the number of accident occurred on that road due to narrow width of the road; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to allocate adequate funds to complete the repair work and by when the work would start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Delhi-Mawana-Mirapur-Bijnor-Najibabad-Kotdwara highway falls in the State of Uttar Pradesh and is about 202 km. long. A length of 65 km. upto Meerut falling on National Highway Nos. 24 and 58 is already developed to 4- lane standards. Meerut-Bijnor- Najibabad section in a length of 118 km has been taken up by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for upgradation under Phase-I of World Bank assisted State Road Project. The remaining length in Najibabad-Uttaranchal border Section has been accorded "in-principle" approval for improvement under Inter-State Connectivity Scheme of Central Road Fund.

(c) No data is available for this road with regard to number of accidents due to existing narrow width of the road.

(d) The upgradation of 118 km under World Bank assistance has commenced in April, 2002 and will take about 2 years for completion. For Najibabad-Kotdwara section, sanction will be accorded after complete detailed project proposal is received. This will take about 2 years for completion after sanction.

National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme

2748. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes for NGO's participation under his Ministry;

(b) the details of the amount released under the "National Highways Accident Relief Service Scheme" since 1998-1999 till 2000-2001, State-wise, and the details of beneficiaries;

(c) whether Government have came to know about misuse of these funds in recent years; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to stop such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) There are three schemes for Road Safety under this Ministry in which an NGO can participate. Details of these schemes are as given below :—

(i) **Grants-in-aid for administering Road Safety Programmes**

Under this scheme grants-in-aid is provided to NGO's to undertake various types of road safety programmes for raising road safety consciousness among the road users, publicity campaigns on road safety, providing training facilities and medical aid to the victims of road accidents. Any registered Voluntary Organization engaged in research activity or field programmes relating to road safety for a period of at least two years can apply for financial assistance.